

New (2005) CDL Skills Test Requirements	Old CDL Skills Test Requirements
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Section 11 – Vehicle Pre-Trip Inspection

<p>Air Gauge Make sure the air gauge is working properly. Build air pressure to governor cut-out, roughly 120 to 140 psi.</p>	<p>Air Gauge Ensure air pressure gauges are working properly. Check that gauges rise to normal operating range of 100 to 125 psi.</p>
<p>Removed</p>	<p>Steering Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-power steering: Check for excessive play by turning steering wheel back and forth. Play should not exceed 10 degrees (or about two inches on a 20-inch wheel). • Power steering: With the engine running, check for excessive play by turning the steering wheel back and forth. Play should not exceed 10 degrees (or about two inches on a 20-inch wheel) before front left wheel barely moves.
<p>Parking Brake Check With the parking brake engaged (trailer brakes released on combination vehicles), check that the parking brake will hold vehicle by gently trying to pull forward with parking brake on. With the parking brake released and the trailer parking brake engaged (combination vehicles only), check that the trailer parking brake will hold vehicle by gently trying to pull forward with the trailer parking brake on.</p>	<p>Parking Brake Check Apply parking brake only and make sure that it will hold the vehicle by shifting into a lower gear and gently pulling against the brake. (The air pressure must be at least 100 psi)</p>
<p>Air Brake Check (Air Brake Equipped Vehicles Only) Failure to perform all three components of the air brake check correctly will result in an automatic failure of the vehicle inspection test. Air brake safety devices vary. However, this procedure is designed to see that any safety device operates correctly as air pressure drops from normal to a low air condition. For safety purposes, in areas where an incline is present, you will use wheel chocks during the air brake check. The proper procedures for inspecting the air brake system are as follows: 1. With the air pressure built up to governor cutoff (120 – 140 psi), shut off the engine, chock your wheels if necessary, release the parking brake (all vehicles), and the tractor protection valve (combination vehicle) and fully apply the foot brake. Hold the foot brake for one minute. Check the air gauge to see if the air pressure drops more than three pounds in one minute (single vehicle) or four pounds in one minute (combination vehicle). Without re-starting the engine, turn electrical power to the “on” or “battery charge” position.</p>	<p>Air Brake Check (Air Brake Equipped Vehicles Only) Failure to perform an air brake check will result in an automatic failure of the vehicle inspection test. Air brake safety devices vary. However, this procedure is designed to see that any safety device operates correctly as air pressure drops from normal to a low air condition. For safety purposes, in areas where an incline is present, you will use wheel chocks during the air brake check. The proper procedures for inspecting the air brake system are as follows: [Leaks] - With the engine running, build the air pressure to governed cut-out (100-125 psi). Shut off the engine, chock your wheels, if necessary, release the tractor protection valve and parking brake (push in), fully apply the foot brake and hold it for one minute. Check the air gauge to see if the air pressure drops more than three pounds in one minute (single vehicle) or four pounds in one minute (combination vehicle). [Alarms] - Begin fanning off the air pressure by rapidly applying and releasing the foot brake. Low air warning devices (buzzer, light, flag) should activate</p>

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<p>2. Begin fanning off the air pressure by rapidly applying and releasing the foot brake. Low air warning devices (buzzer, light, flag) should activate before air pressure drops below 60 psi or level specified by the manufacturer..</p> <p>3. Continue to fan off the air pressure. At approximately 40 psi on a tractor-trailer combination vehicle (or level specified by the manufacturer), the tractor protection valve and parking brake valve should close (pop out). On other combination vehicle types and single vehicle types, the parking brake valve should close (pop out).</p>	<p>before air pressure drops below 60 psi. [Buttons] - Continue to fan off the air pressure. At approximately 20 to 40 psi on a tractor-trailer combination vehicle, the tractor protection valve and parking brake valve should close (pop out). On other combination vehicle types and single vehicle types, the parking brake valve should close (pop out).</p>
<p>Safety Belt Check that the safety belt is securely mounted, adjusts, and latches properly and is not ripped or frayed.</p>	<p>Safety Belt Check that the safety belt is securely mounted, adjusts, and latches properly.</p>
<p>Lights/Reflectors/Reflector Tape Condition (Sides & Rear) Test that dash indicators work when corresponding lights are turned on: Left turn signal. Right turn signal. Four-way emergency flashers. High beam headlight. Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) indicator.</p> <p>Check that all external lights and reflective equipment are clean and functional. Light and reflector checks include: Clearance lights (red on rear, amber elsewhere). Headlights (high and low beams). Taillights. Backing lights. Turn signals. Four-way flashers. Brake lights. Red reflectors (on rear) and amber reflectors (elsewhere). Reflector tape condition</p> <p>Note: Checks of brake, turn signal and four-way flasher functions must be done separately.</p>	<p>Lights/Reflectors Check that all external lights and reflective equipment are clean, functional ad not missing. Light and reflector checks include: you will need to specify colors Clearance lights (red on rear, amber elsewhere). Headlights (high and low beams). Taillights. Turn signals. Four-way flashers. Brake lights. Red reflectors (on rear) and amber reflectors (elsewhere).</p> <p>Note: Checks of brake, turn signal and four-way flasher functions must be done separately.</p>
<p>Emergency Equipment Check for spare electrical fuses. Check for three red reflective triangles, 6 fuses or 3 liquid burning flares. Check for a properly charged and rated fire extinguisher.</p>	<p>Emergency Equipment Check for spare electrical fuses. Check for three red reflective triangles. Check for a properly charged and rated fire extinguisher.</p>

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<p>Note: If the vehicle is not equipped with electrical fuses, you must mention this to the examiner.</p>	
<p>Service Brake Check You will be required to check the application of air or hydraulic service brakes. This procedure is designed to determine that the brakes are working correctly and that the vehicle does not pull to one side or the other. Pull forward at 5 mph, apply the service brake and stop. Check to see that the vehicle does not pull to either side and that it stops when brake is applied.</p>	<p>Not Included</p>
<p>Tires The following items must be inspected on every tire: Tread depth: Check for minimum tread depth (4/32 on steering axle tires, 2/32 on all other tires). Tire condition: Check that tread is evenly worn and look for cuts or other damage to tread or sidewalls. Also, make sure that valve caps and stems are not missing, broken, or damaged. Tire inflation: Check for proper inflation by using a tire gauge.</p> <p>Note: You will not get credit if you simply kick the tires to check for proper inflation.</p>	<p>Tires The following items must be inspected on every tire: Tread depth: Check for minimum tread depth (4/32 on steering axle tires, 2/32 on all other tires). Tire condition: Check that tread is evenly worn and look for cuts or other damage to tread or sidewalls. (cuts, ripped, torn, bulged) Tire inflation: Check for proper inflation by using a tire gauge, or inflation by striking tires with a mallet or other similar device.</p> <p>Note: You will not get credit if you simply kick the tires to check for proper inflation.</p>
<p>Mounts / U-bolts Look for cracked or broken spring hangers, missing or damaged bushings, and broken, loose, or missing bolts, u-bolts or other axle mounting parts. (the mounts should be checked at each point where they are secured to the vehicle frame and axle[s]).</p>	<p>Spring Mounts / U-Bolts Look for cracked or broken spring hangers, missing and broken, loose, or missing bolts, u-bolts. (The mounts should be checked at each point where they are secured to the vehicle frame ad axle[s]).</p>
<p>Slack Adjustors and Pushrods Look for broken, loose, or missing parts. For manual slack adjustors, the brake pushrod should not move more than one inch (with the brakes released) when pulled by hand.</p>	<p>Slack Adjustors Look for broken, loose, or missing parts. The angle between the push rod and adjustor arm should be a little over 90 degrees when the brakes are released and not less than 90 degrees when the brakes are applied. When pulled by hand, the brake rod should not move more than one inch (with the brakes released).</p>
<p>Spacers or Budd Spacing Spacers should be evenly centered, with the dual wheels and tires evenly separated. If equipped, check that spacers are not bent, damaged, or rusted through.</p>	<p>Spacers / Bud Wheels Spacers should be evenly centered, with the dual wheels and tires evenly separated and no objects stuck between them. Spacers/Bud wheels should not have any cracks or excessive rust.</p>
<p>Splash Guards If equipped, check that splash guards or mud flaps are not damaged and are mounted securely.</p>	<p>Not Included</p>

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<p>5th Wheel Skid Plate Check for proper lubrication and that 5th wheel skid plate is securely mounted to the platform and that all bolts and pins are secure and not missing.</p>	Not Included
<p>Sliding Pintle Check that the sliding pintle is secured with no loose or missing nuts or bolts and cotter pin is in place.</p>	Not Included
<p>Tongue or Draw-Bar Check that the tongue/draw-bar is not bent or twisted and checks for broken welds and stress cracks. Check that the tongue/draw-bar is not worn excessively.</p>	Not Included
<p>Tongue Storage Area Check that the storage area is solid and secured to the tongue. Check that cargo in the storage area i.e. chains, binders, etc. are secure.</p>	Not Included
<p>(SCHOOL BUS ONLY) Student Mirrors In addition to checking the external mirrors, school bus drivers must also check the internal and external mirrors used for observing students: Check for proper adjustment. Checks that all internal and external mirrors and mirror brackets are not damaged and are mounted securely with no loose fittings. Checks that visibility is not impaired due to dirty mirrors.</p>	Not Included
<p>Remainder of Trailer Please refer to Section 11.2 of this manual for detailed inspection procedures regarding the following components: Wheels. Suspension system. Brakes. Doors/ties/lift. Splash guards.</p>	<p>Remainder of Trailer Please refer to Section 11.2 of this manual for detailed inspection procedures regarding the following components: Wheels. Suspension system. Brakes. Doors/ties/lift.</p>
<p>Fuel Tanks Check that tank(s) are secure, cap(s) are tight, and that there are no leaks from tank(s) or lines.</p>	<p>Fuel Tank Check that tank(s) are secure, cap(s) are tight, and that there are no leaks.</p>
<p>Battery/Box (Coach / Transit Bus) Wherever located, see that battery(s) are secure, connections are tight, and cell caps are present. Battery connections should not show signs of excessive corrosion. Check that battery box and cover or door is not damaged and is secure.</p>	Not Included

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11.6 Taking the CDL Vehicle Inspection Test
11.6.1 – Class A Vehicle Inspection Test
 If you are applying for a Class A CDL, you will be required to perform one of the four versions of a Vehicle inspection in the vehicle you have brought with you for testing. Each of the four tests are equivalent and you will not know which test you will take until just before the testing begins.
 All of the tests include an engine start, an in-cab inspection, and an inspection of the coupling system. Then, your test may require an inspection of the entire vehicle or only a portion of the vehicle which your CDL Examiner will explain to you.

11.6.2 Class B and C Vehicle Inspection Test
 If you are applying for a Class B CDL, you will be required to perform a pre-trip inspection in the vehicle you have brought with you for testing. The vehicle brought in for testing must be a “representative vehicle” for the classification of license you are seeking. The test starts with an inspection on the front of the vehicle, engine compartment, engine start, and in-cab-inspection.
 Then you will need to inspect down the driver’s side and underneath the vehicle all the way down to the rear of the vehicle(s) and remember to check any items on the other side or underneath the vehicle, which are unique or different. If the vehicle being inspected has a tandem axle on the truck then you will only have to inspect one axle of the tandem wheels. However, the driver’s license examiner administering the skills test will select and instruct you on which axle they want you to inspect.
 All of the tests include an engine start and an incab inspection. Then, your test may require an inspection of the entire vehicle or only a portion of the vehicle which your CDL Examiner will explain to you. You will also have to inspect any special features of your vehicle (e.g., school or transit bus).

NOTICE: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s interpretation of regulation 383.113 Required Skills is as follows:

Question: May a driver use a truck tractor (as defined in 49 CFR 390.5) as a representative vehicle for purposes of completing the skills tests for a Class B commercial driver’s license (CDL)?

Answer: No. A driver must be tested in a truck or bus (as those terms are defined in 49 CFR 390.5), or other single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 11,794 kilograms (26,001 pounds) or more to satisfy the skills testing requirements for a Class B CDL. A truck tractor is designed to operate with a towed unit(s), typically a semitrailer (as defined in 49 CFR 390.5) and therefore could only be used as a representative vehicle when connected to a semitrailer, for a Class A CDL.

Section 12 – Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

<p>Intro After successful completion of the pre-trip inspection test you are required to successfully complete the Basic Control Skills (BCS) examination. The maneuvers you are required to perform are conducted on an off road skills pad located on or near the Department of Motor Vehicles. You will not be required to attempt these maneuvers in an in-traffic environment. Your basic control skills will be tested using the following three</p>	<p>Intro Your basic control skills could be tested using one or more of the following exercises off-road or somewhere on the street during the road test: forward stop. straight line backing. forward serpentine alley dock.</p>
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<p>off-road exercises during the skills test: Straight line backing. Offset back/left Parallel park (conventional).</p>	
<p>Scoring Crossing Boundaries (encroachments) Pull-ups Outside Vehicle Observations (looks) Final Position/Inside Parallel Encroachments – The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line or cone with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error. Pull-ups – When a driver stops and pulls forward to clear an encroachment or to get a better position, it is scored as a “pull-up”. Stopping without changing direction does not count as a pull-up. You will not be penalized for initial pull-ups. However, an excessive number of pull-ups, will count as errors. Outside Vehicle Observations (Looks) – You may be permitted to safely stop and exit the vehicle to check the external position of the vehicle (look). When doing so, you must place the vehicle in neutral and set the parking brake(s). Then, when exiting the vehicle, you must do so safely by facing the vehicle and maintaining three points of contact with the vehicle at all times (when exiting a bus, maintain a firm grasp on the handrail at all times). If you do not safely secure the vehicle or safely exit the vehicle it may result in an automatic failure of the basic control skills test. The maximum number of times that you may look to check the position of you vehicle is two (2) except for the Straight Line Backing exercise, which allows one look. Each time you open the door, move from a seated position where in physical control of the vehicle or on a bus walk to the back of a bus to get a better view, it is scored as a “look”. Final Position/Inside Parallel – It is important that you finish each exercise exactly as the examiner has instructed you. If you do not maneuver the vehicle into its final position as described by the examiner, you will be penalized and could fail the basic skills test.</p>	<p>Skills Test Scoring Crossing Boundaries The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error. Pull-ups In some of the exercises, the examiner will also score the number of times you stop and change direction or pull-up during the exercise. Errors will be explained to you prior to the beginning of each exercise.</p>
<p>Straight Line Backing You may be asked to back your vehicle in a straight line between two rows of cones without touching or crossing over the exercise boundaries.</p>	<p>Updated</p>

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<p>Offset Back/Left You may be asked to back into a space that is to the left rear of your vehicle. You will drive straight forward the outer boundary. From that position, you must back the vehicle into the opposite lane until the front of your vehicle has passed the first set of cones without striking boundary lines or cones.</p>	Not Included
<p>Parallel Park (Conventional) You may be asked to park in a parallel parking space that is on your right. You are to drive past the entrance to the parallel parking space with your vehicle parallel to the parking area; and back into the space without crossing front, side or rear boundaries marked by cones. You are required to get your entire vehicle completely into the space.</p>	Not Included

Section 13 – On-Road Driving

<p>How You Will Be Tested You will drive over a test route that has a variety of traffic situations. At all times during the test, you must drive in a safe and responsible manner; and you must: Wear your safety belt. Obey all traffic signs, signals, and laws. Complete the test without an accident or moving violation.</p> <p>During the driving test, the examiner will be scoring you on specific driving maneuvers as well as on your general driving behavior. You will follow the directions of the examiner. Directions will be given to you so you will have plenty of time to do what the examiner has asked. You will not be asked to drive in an unsafe manner.</p> <p>If your test route does not have certain traffic situations, you may be asked to simulate a traffic situation. You will do this by telling the examiner what you are or would be doing if you were in that traffic situation.</p>	<p>How You Will Be Tested You will drive over a test route that has a variety of traffic situations. At all times during the test, you must drive in a safe and responsible manner.</p> <p>During the driving test, the examiner will be scoring you on specific driving maneuvers as well as on your general driving behavior. You will follow the directions of the examiner. Directions will be given to you so you will have plenty of time to do what the examiner has asked. You will not be asked to drive in an unsafe manner.</p> <p>If your test route does not have certain traffic situations, you may be asked to simulate a traffic situation. You will do this by telling the examiner what you are or would be doing if you were in that traffic situation.</p>
<p>Turns (After turn): Make sure turn signal is off. Get up to speed of traffic, use turn signal, and move into right-most lane when safe to do so (if not already there). Check mirrors and traffic.</p>	<p>Turns (After turn): Make sure turn signal is off. Get up to speed of traffic, use turn signal, and move into right-most lane when safe to do so (if not already there).</p>
<p>Railroad Crossing Before reaching the crossing, all commercial drivers should: Decelerate, brake smoothly, and shift gears as necessary.</p>	<p>Railroad Crossing Before reaching the crossing, all commercial drivers should: Decelerate, brake smoothly, and shift gears as necessary.</p>

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<p>Look and listen for the presence of trains. Check traffic in all directions. Do not stop, change gears, pass another vehicle, or change lanes while any part of your vehicle is in the crossing. If you are driving a bus, a school bus, or a vehicle displaying placards, you should be prepared to observe the following procedures at every railroad crossing (unless the crossing is exempt): As the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing, activate the four-way flashers. Stop the vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail. Listen and look in both directions along the track for an approaching train and for signals indicating the approach of a train. If operating a bus, you may also be required to open the window and door prior to crossing tracks. Keep hands on the steering wheel as the vehicle crosses the tracks. Do not stop, change gears, or change lanes while any part of your vehicle is proceeding across the tracks. Four-way flashers should be deactivated after the vehicle crosses the tracks. Continue to check mirrors and traffic. Not all driving road test routes will have a railroad crossing. You may be asked to explain and demonstrate the proper railroad crossing procedures to the examiner at a simulated location.</p>	<p>Look and listen for the presence of trains. Check traffic in all directions. Do not stop, change gears, pass another vehicle, or change lanes while any part of your vehicle is in the crossing. If you are driving a bus, a school bus, or a vehicle displaying placards, you should be prepared to observe the following procedures at every railroad crossing (unless the crossing is exempt): {YOU MAY BE ASKED TO SIMULATE THE RAILROAD CROSSING} As the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing, activate the four-way flashers. (This is done during your road test. This is not required under State Law, however, it does communicate your intentions.) Stop the vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail. Listen and look in both directions along the track for an approaching train and for signals indicating the approach of a train. If operating a bus, you may also be required to open the window and door prior to crossing tracks. Keep hands on the steering wheel as the vehicle crosses the tracks. Do not stop, change gears, or change lanes while any part of your vehicle is proceeding across the tracks. Four-way flashers should be deactivated after the vehicle crosses the tracks. Not all driving road test routes will have a railroad crossing. You may be asked to explain and demonstrate the proper railroad crossing procedures to the examiner at a simulated location.</p>
<p>Student Discharge (School Bus) If you are applying for a School Bus endorsement, you will be required to demonstrate a student discharge. Please refer to section 10 of this manual. As you approach the student pick up, you must: Decelerate and approach at a slow rate of speed while continuing to check traffic. Activate amber warning lights and right turn signals. Move as far as possible to the right on the traveled portion of the roadway. Recheck traffic. As you stop for the student discharge, you must: Bring school bus to a complete stop at least 10' away from students at the stop. Place the transmission in neutral/park and set the</p>	<p>Not Included</p>

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<p>parking brake. Activate the stop arm and red warning lights. When discharging students, you must: Communicate to students. Check traffic. Open the student door. Check for students. When students are crossing, you must: Check traffic. Communicate to students. Check for students. When resuming from the student discharge, you must: Check all mirrors. Turn off warning lights and stop arm. Close the door Check traffic. Accelerate away from the stop area.</p>	
<p>General Driving Behaviors</p> <p>Clutch Usage (for Manual Transmission) Always use clutch to shift. You must double-clutch when shifting. Do not rev or lug the engine. Do not ride clutch to control speed, coast with the clutch depressed, or "pop" the clutch.</p> <p>Gear Usage (for Manual Transmission) Do not grind or clash gears. Select gear that does not rev or lug engine. Do not shift in turns and intersections.</p>	<p>Clutch Usage/Shifting (for manual transmission) Always use clutch to shift. Double-clutch if vehicle is equipped with non-synchronized transmission. Do not rev or lug the engine.</p> <p>Gear Usage (for manual transmission) Do not grind or clash gears. Select gear that does not rev or lug engine. Shift in turns and intersections as needed. Do not ride clutch to control speed, coast with the clutch depressed, or "pop" the clutch.</p>
<p>Steering Do not over or under steer the vehicle. Keep both hands on the steering wheel at all times unless shifting. Once you have completed shift, return both hands to the steering wheel.</p>	Not Included
<p>Regular Traffic Checks Check traffic regularly. Check mirrors regularly. Check mirrors and traffic before, while in and after an intersection. Scan and check traffic in high volume areas and areas where pedestrians are expected to be present.</p>	Not Included
<p>Use of Turn Signals Use turn signals properly. Activate turn signals when required. Activate turn signals at appropriate times. Cancel turn signals upon completion of a turn or lane change.</p>	Not Included

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